

In the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] Collapsible weighing scales are generally known. For example, such scales are shown and described in ~~Hulbert~~ Hulburt, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,337,446, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] Other collapsible scales, that provide a significant reduction in volume when in compact or collapsed form, are shown in ~~Hulbert~~ Hulburt, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,337,446 (~~Hulbert~~ Hulburt '446 hereinafter). However, these scales, too, have certain disadvantages. In particular, the scales disclosed in Hulbert can be complicated or inconvenient to deploy from a compact or collapsed arrangement. Often, these scales require multiple steps to expand from the compact configuration to an extended configuration suitable for use as a weighing scale.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following amended paragraph:

[0042] Scale **400** also includes a platform **432** supported on the support structure and suitable for receiving an associated object to be weighed. Platform **432** is secured to central body **402** in a suitable manner and in an extended position, shown in FIGURES 7 and 9, is supported on legs **404**, **406**, **408** and **410**. Platform **432** includes a plurality of platform segments, such as rods **436**, for example. The platform segments are interconnected by a suitable flexible material **438**, such as a woven material or a polymeric film, for example. Platform **432** can optionally be formed from two portions that are separately secured to the central body. Scale **400** also optionally includes springs **440** extending from central body **402** that can be used to support platform **432** to keep the extended portions thereof out of the way during deployment and retraction of legs **404**, **406**, **408** and **410**. Once the legs are retracted and stowed within central body **402**, as shown in FIGURE 8, platform portions ~~**432** and **434**~~ **432A** and **432B** (FIGURE 9) can be folded or otherwise formed around the central body with sufficient force to overcome the bias of springs **440**, if such springs are included. The platform can be retained in the collapsed position in any suitable manner, such as by a removable strap (not shown), for example.

Please replace paragraph [0047] with the following amended paragraph:

[0047] A gear segment **614** is associated with each leg and is spaced ~~radially~~ radially outwardly from pivot hole **612**. It will be appreciated that gear segments **614** are rotatably fixed relative to

the associated leg such that rotation of the gear segment about pivot hole **612** causes the associated leg to rotate with the gear segment. A foot **616** is supported at a distal end of each leg opposite the pivot hole therein.

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following amended paragraph:

[0051] In moving between the extended and retracted positions, handle **636** forces connector member **638** to rotate pivot member **632** primarily due to the translation of connector member **638**. Rotation of pivot member **632** primarily causes translation of first and second members **628** and **630**, which in turn rotate the gear segments associated with the first and second members. As these associated gear ~~segment-segments~~ rotate, the corresponding interengaging gear segments likewise rotate and the associated legs move from the extended position shown in FIGURE 10 to the collapsed position shown in FIGURE 11. As such, the movement of handle **636** from the extended to the retracted position results in all four legs moving from the deployed position shown in FIGURE 10 to the collapsed position shown in FIGURE 11 in one movement. The scale moves from the collapsed to the deployed position by displacing the handle in the opposite manner.

Please replace paragraph [0058] with the following amended paragraph:

[0058] It is important that the platform segments and corresponding joints therebetween do not buckle under the weight of the associated object supported thereon, and that the platform segments are not in contact with the subjacent surface that supports feet **726**. This would undesirably affect the weight sensed by the load sensors and cause the scale to render an inaccurate reading of the weight of the associated object. It is apparent from ~~FIGURE 16~~ FIGURE 13 that platform segments **708** and support members **704** and **706** are spaced away from and do not extend as far down as feet **726**. To provide additional structural support to scale **700**, stabilizing rods **730**, shown in FIGURE 15, can optionally be used. The stabilizing rods aid in the prevention of buckling of joints **712** under the weight of the associated object or person. The stabilizing rods can be pivotally attached to one of support members **704** and **706** and fold underneath the respective support member such that the stabilizing rods are out of the way when collapsing scale **700**. Alternately, the stabilizing rods can be separate and removable from scale **700**. As better seen in FIGURE 14, holes **732** can be used to receive opposing ends of the stabilizing rods, where removable stabilizing rods are used. Additionally, notches **734** or any other suitable geometric feature can be optionally provided on platform segments **708** to engage the stabilizing rods.